

In fact, when asked for detailed targeting information we were given three different answers. First, we were told that they did not bring that kind of information. Then, we were told there were people in the room who were not cleared to receive that kind of information. Finally, we were told that kind of information is only provided to the Senate leadership and members of the Armed Services Committee. Because members of the leadership and the Senate Armed Services Committee indicated they had never received such information, I can only surmise there must be a fourth answer.

We find ourselves in an uncomfortable and counter-productive Catch-22. Until we as civilians provide better guidance to our military leaders, we are unlikely to affect the kind of changes needed to update our nuclear policies to reflect the realities of the post-cold-war world. Yet, providing improved guidance is difficult when we are unable to learn the basic components of the SIOP. Given this, I followed up our meeting with a letter to Senate Minority Leader Tom DASCHLE requesting that he schedule another briefing so that we could get the information our first briefers would not provide.

While I still believe this briefing is needed, we need not wait for a briefing on the details of the SIOP to answer the question of how many nuclear weapons are needed to deter potential aggressors. In truth, it is important for citizens, armed only with common sense and open-source information, to reach sound conclusions about our nuclear posture and force levels.

To illustrate, we should ask experts to describe the deterrent capability of a single Trident submarine—our most survivable and reliable delivery platform. Within an hour of receiving an order to launch, a Trident could deliver and detonate 192 nuclear weapons on their targets. The minimum size of the detonations would be 100 kilotons; the maximum would be 300 kilotons. By comparison, the Hiroshima detonation that caused Japan to sue for unconditional peace in August 1945 was only 15 kilotons. In the open, we should assess what damage 192 of these weapons would cause and determine whether this would deter most, if not all of the threats we face.

Mr. President, I have made no secret of my strongly-held belief that we can and we should make dramatic reductions in our strategic nuclear arsenals. I believe that by keeping such a large arsenal of strategic nuclear weapons we are decreasing rather than enhancing our security. By keeping such a large arsenal we are forcing the Russians to keep more weapons than they can safely control. By keeping such a large arsenal we are increasing the chance of accidental or unauthorized launch. By keeping such a large arsenal we are increasing the likelihood of the proliferation of these weapons. By keeping such a large arsenal we are en-

couraging nations like India, Pakistan, Iran, and North Korea to pursue a nuclear weapons option. And finally, by keeping such a large arsenal we are diverting budgetary resources away from our conventional forces—the forces that are vital to protecting our interests around the globe.

In the near future, I will return to the Senate floor to discuss this issue further. I will return with non-classified information—information that comes not from briefings in secret rooms, but information all citizens can access through a simple search on Yahoo—in an attempt to better understand our nuclear policy and the changing definition of deterrence in the post-Cold War world.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I do have some Executive Calendar matters and other unanimous consent agreements that have already been worked out. I will proceed to those. However, I do note I want to offer a unanimous consent request with regard to the estate tax matter. I want the Democratic leader to be here when I make that request. I am hoping within the next few minutes we will also be able to conclude an agreement with regard to the Department of Defense authorization bill. Discussions are still underway, but I thought I would take advantage of this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 567 through 570. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

THE JUDICIARY

Paul C. Huck, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, vice Kenneth L. Ryskamp, retired.

John W. Darrah, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern Dis-

trict of Illinois, vice George M. Marovich, retired.

Joan Humphrey Lefkow, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice Ann C. Williams, elevated.

George Z. Singal, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, vice Morton A. Brody, deceased.

CONFIRMATION OF GEORGE SINGAL

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has confirmed George Singal, the President's nominee for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine, and rise to express my strong unequivocal support for his nomination.

In advance, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator HATCH, for proceeding so expeditiously on Mr. Singal's nomination—especially when considering his nomination was transmitted to the Senate just six weeks ago. In addition, I would like to thank the Majority Leader for bringing his nomination to the floor so rapidly—just three days after being reported by the Judiciary Committee.

George Singal immigrated along with his family to the United States at a very young age, and has become a living embodiment of the American dream. He possesses a superior legal mind, has distinguished himself within the legal profession, and is deeply committed to upholding the very highest standards of our nation's judicial system.

Moreover, Mr. Singal has a wide range of experience serving as both a prosecutor and as a defense attorney—a deep understanding and appreciation for the constitutionally mandated roles of the three branches of government—and the enormous respect of his colleagues, a number of whom have contacted me in support of his nomination. Finally, and just as telling, he enjoys bipartisan support across the State of Maine.

Consider what George's background says about his character and qualifications. Born in a refugee camp in Italy after his family fled before the German invasion of his native Poland, he arrived in Bangor along with his sister and widowed mother in 1949.

After graduating summa cum laude from my alma mater, the University of Maine in 1967, and becoming only the second recipient of the highly respected Root-Tilden Scholarship in the history of the university, George briefly left our state to receive his law degree from Harvard University three years later.

Indeed, not one to forget his roots, George immediately returned to Maine to begin his legal career in Bangor, serving as the Assistant County Attorney for Penobscot County from 1971 to 1973, even as he worked his way to a partnership in the respected law firm of Gross, Minsky, Mogul, & Singal—the firm in which he has remained to this day.